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DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION OF WATER RIGHTS

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Ground-Water Management Policy for the Monticello Mill Tailings Site and Adjacent Areas

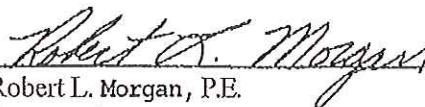
The Monticello Mill Tailings Site is on the southeast portion of the town of Monticello in Section 36, T33S, R23E and Section 31, T33S, R24E, SLB&M. The mill site was used from 1942 to 1960 in the processing of uranium and vanadium. The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) is currently cleaning up the site. The site is in the small canyon that forms the drainage for South Creek. The general direction of water flow, of both surface streams and the shallow ground water system is in a southeasterly direction. The geology of the site consists of about ten to 30 feet of alluvial fill material underlain by Mancos Shale or Dakota Sandstone. The former mill site area was heavily contaminated and there has been some movement of the metals and radionuclides down gradient.

The U.S. Department of Energy, with oversight from the Environmental Protection Agency and Utah Department of Environmental Quality, has conducted extensive sampling and testing of the site and adjacent areas. They have determined that at the present level of contamination it could pose a significant human health risk if they ingest the water. DOE submitted a request to the State Engineer to apply institutional controls for the site to restrict the development and use of the shallow ground water for domestic purposes.

The State Engineer has reviewed the data and information related to the Monticello Mill Tailings Site and believes there are potential human health concerns. The area of concern is the shallow alluvial fill aquifer at and immediately east of the Monticello Mill Tailings Site. Therefore, the State Engineer adopts the following ground-water management policy.

1. The area covered by this ground-water management policy is shown on attachment number 1, and hereafter referred to as the Monticello Ground-Water Restricted Area.
2. New applications to appropriate water will not be approved which propose to divert and use water for domestic purposes from the shallow alluvial fill aquifer within the boundaries of the Monticello Ground-Water Restricted Area. In addition, change applications will not be approved which propose to divert and use water from the shallow alluvial fill aquifer for domestic purposes.

3. Several existing water ~~rights~~ divert and use surface, or ground water within the restricted area. ~~This~~ management policy, and any restrictions or limitations it may impose, does not affect these existing water ~~rights~~ as they now exist. If actions are necessary to curtail water use under existing water ~~rights~~ they will be handled under individual agreements between the parties.
4. If a water user requests permission to drill a well into the deeper bedrock formations ~~within~~ the restricted area, they will be required to demonstrate that they can seal out the shallow contaminated ground water and not allow the flow of water between the shallow alluvial aquifer and the deeper bedrock aquifers/formations.
5. The above controls will remain in effect ~~until~~ it is determined that the ~~risk~~ to human health is eliminated or reduced to acceptable ~~limits~~.
6. The effective date of this policy is May 21, 1999.


Robert L. Morgan, P.E.
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If you have questions about this policy, contact a Division of Water Rights office listed below:

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Attachment 1 - Monticello Ground-Water Restricted Area

